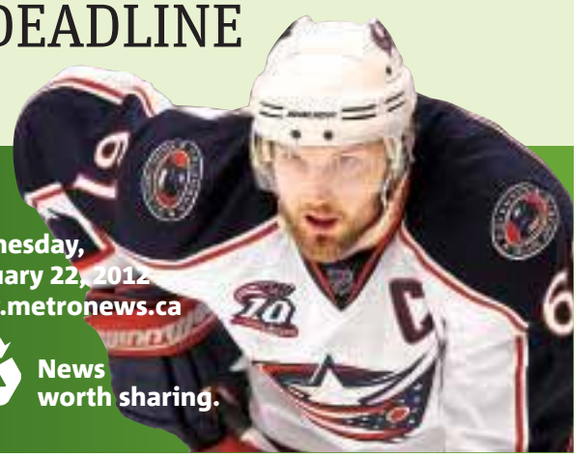
THIS IS FLORIDA?
SOAK UP THE SUN AND CULTURE IN ST. PETERSBURG {page 10}

MOVING ON
EMD WORKERS POLISH OFF RESUMÉS AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE {page 4}

LETS MAKE A DEAL

NHL PLAYERS BRACE FOR TRADE DEADLINE DAY {page 14}



LONDON metro®

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Millions in cuts OK'd

Mayor Joe Fontana's promise to stave off a tax increase was looking good in wee hours of budget debate ◐ Budget included a 2.3 per cent tax hike when tabled in December

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

"This city is strong. Its foundations are strong, so we have the opportunity to look at options for saving money," Mayor Joe Fontana said at Tuesday's budget meeting at city hall.

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

City councillors were inching closer to a 2012 tax freeze as of Metro's Tuesday-night deadline.

During a final budget debate that started behind closed doors at about 6 p.m. and was still going on at 11:30 p.m., council approved slashing millions of dollars. The cuts included putting about $1 million less than planned into a reserve fund for affordable housing and putting $500,000 less into a savings account for making buildings handicapped-accessible.

Some councillors warned that such cuts are fiscally irresponsible. In at least some cases, the moves are putting a mortgage on the city's future and building a "multimillion-dollar time bomb," Coun. Matt Brown said. "Our community needs this council to provide relief but also provide strategic direction."

The cuts to reserve funds are permanent reductions to the bottom line, some councillors argued. That means the money will have to be pulled from elsewhere — such as programs — or taxes will have to be hiked if the funding is restored next year.

"All we're trying to do is colour this in pretty colours so we don't have to face the music," Coun. Nancy Branscombe said, talking about a plan to reassess the handicap-accessibility money in 2013. "If you vote to take this out of reserve funds tonight, it's gone."

For more on Tuesday's budget meeting, go to metronews.ca/london.

Walk-a-thon

In the cold of the night

◐ Charity walk aims to show people what it's like to live on the street ◐ It's not too late to sign up {page 3}

Remix

Chris Brown gets a slice of Rihanna's birthday cake {page 8}

Star grazing

Try these themed snacks for your Oscar party {page 12}

Showing drivers a little R-Spec

Hyundai's new Genesis rear-wheel-drive sedan has plenty of soul {page 16}

"My cell bill is one of the few things I don't have to worry about."

– Sandra S. of Toronto
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Walk-a-thon aiming to raise $36K for homeless

Coldest Night of the Year raises money for charity while showing people what it feels like to live on the street This is London's inaugural walk

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Carol Ristine, co-ordinator of the Coldest Night of the Year walk-a-thon for Mission Services of London, poses for a photo Tuesday in the non-profit's headquarters. Volunteers along the walk's route will be holding signs like the one pictured below to remind people that many are homeless and forced to brave cold winter nights.

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand."

Mission Services of London is latching onto the message within that Chinese proverb for Saturday's Coldest Night of the Year walk-a-thon.

"We really are hoping that people get a better appreciation … for what it's like to spend time outdoors in the winter," co-ordinator Carol Ristine said. "That's how many of our clients live every day."

The walk doubles as a benefit for the non-profit organization, which helps Londoners find emergency shelter, cope with mental illness and battle addictions. Nearly 140 people so far have signed up to walk, pledging about $25,000.

The goal is $36,000, and Ristine is counting on hitting the target.

"We're feeling really hopeful and very optimistic," she said.

When London walkers hit the pavement — choosing a 10-, five- or 2.5-kilometre route — they'll be joined by thousands of others across the country.

Eighteen municipalities are participating in similar walks born out of an effort by International Teams Canada, a Christian mission organization based in Elmira.

The events started last year with people in three cities raising a combined $112,000 for groups such as Mission Services.

To take part...

- Teams and individuals who want to participate in Saturday's walk-a-thon can call 519-438-3056, or visit coldestnightoftheyear.org. Registration starts at 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church (746 Colborne St.).

TVDSB makes major United Way donation

United Way agencies of Elgin-St. Thomas, London-Middlesex and Oxford have received a record $346,703 donation from staff and students of Thames Valley District School Board.

Donations surpassed this year's campaign target of $345,000. In all, staff and students have donated more than $2.3 million to the United Way over the past eight years.

Students raised money through various activities, including a stair climb and football games. More than 80 per cent of the total was raised through staff payroll contributions. The funds will be divided among the three United Way agencies based on where the money was contributed. METRO

Lightning clinch first with win

The London Lightning got at least 10 points from six players Tuesday night as they defeated the Miracles 119-84 in National Basketball League action in Moncton, clinching first place. Eddie Smith led London with 21 points.

Rodney Buford added 19 points and led the Lightning with 12 rebounds. Gabe Freeman had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the winners. The Lightning shot 50 per cent from the floor, and held the Miracles to below 32 per cent. METRO

1 news

A generation of pet parrots, their novelty long worn off, has been largely neglected and forgotten. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

This is Portland, not Portlandia: Punk gladiators ride all manner of junk bikes into a mosh pit of metal and rubber. Watch at metronews.ca/video

Stack. 'Em Up

▶ Waitress Heather McKie serves up a tall stack during a Shrove Tuesday special at The Early Bird (355 Talbot St.). Eateries, bakeries and community halls across the city marked the day before Lent with big meals and a special dose of heavy treats. Many of the foods eaten on Shrove Tuesday, like pancakes, became associated with the holiday because they are filled with goodies like sugar, fat and flour — things traditionally restricted during Lenten fasting.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Last call before Lent at The Early Bird

Picking up the pieces

Ex-Electro-Motive Diesel workers could soon be leaving plant, picket line in past Metro checked in with some of them, asking for their take on future

Former Electro-Motive Diesel employees are preparing for the next phase of their lives.

When the plant's 450 unionized workers decide Thursday on a proposed severance package, they will, in a sense, be voting on their futures.

Some — like 24-year employee Neil Jacobs — say much of where they will land depends on what the Canadian Auto Workers have managed to negotiate.

"I am concerned," Jacobs said. At the same time, "I have a lot of hope."

No matter what happens Thursday, most workers have resigned themselves to moving on. Despite failed contract negotiations and a month-long lockout prior to the plant's closure, leaving Electro-Motive — and parent company Caterpillar — in the dust won't be easy, Jacobs says.

"That's our livelihood," Jacobs said Tuesday, pointing to the locomotive plant as he manned a picket line. "That's my family."

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Neil Jacobs

Neil Jacobs, 52, London

As a man in his 50s, Jacobs worries some employers might be unwilling to hire him. And he's heard stories that Canadian Auto Workers have been turned down by employment agencies because of union ties.

Putting it simply, Jacobs isn't sure where he'll stand after Thursday's vote. Single with grown children, he feels fairly certain his future isn't in London.

"I have fired resumés anywhere and everywhere.... I've put my name all over North America.

"I'm looking for a place where I can hang my hat for the last time."

Peter Sugrim, 38, Kitchener

Electro-Motive workers made it a point to stay connected with the community — and one another — as the labour dispute waged on.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Peter Sugrim

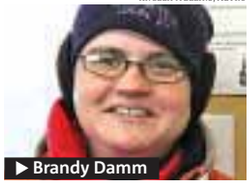
Thanks to that, many have gotten leads on job opportunities. Many of those are on the West and East coasts, and Sugrim's looked into the possibilities.

One option, he says, would have put him away from his family — a wife and three young daughters — for about a month at a time.

For now, he's staying put and expects to find work in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

"It will be less money.... I'm willing to sacrifice that for my family," Sugrim said. "I'm not prepared to leave my family behind. That's the last option."

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO



▶ Brandy Damm

Brandy Damm, 35, London

A welder with a long history of manufacturing jobs under her belt, Damm is optimistic about life after Electro-Motive.

For her, leaving London isn't even in the realm of possibility. Doing that, in a way, would be admitting defeat, she says.

"You can't run away.... We all know when one door closes, another one opens," she said. "There's always options as long as you're willing to go out and look." ANGELA MULLINS

Feb. 3

The day Caterpillar announced the closure of its Electro-Motive Diesel plant on Oxford Street East.

Liberals getting on top of service cuts

Ontario isn't waiting to bring down a budget to make decisions about which government services will be cut or reduced, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Tuesday.

"We've made thoughtful choices already," McGuinty said about government plans to eliminate the $16-billion deficit.

"Those choices will continue, and we're not going to wait for the budget to make more."

In his first reaction to economist Don Drummond's report on reforming government services, McGuinty said only one idea has been rejected so far: A recommendation to scrap full-day kindergarten, which will cost $1.5 billion a year.

"We are absolutely wed to full-day kindergarten and the plan as originally put forward."
PREMIER DALTON MCGUINTY

McGuinty wouldn't rule in or out any of the hundreds of other recommendations from the Drummond report, which warned the province's deficit will double to more than $30 billion in five years if all of its ideas are not implemented.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

QUEEN'S PARK

Ex-Ornge execs chastised

Premier Dalton McGuinty says the ousted executives of Ontario's embattled air-ambulance service let the government down.

He says the leadership at Ornge, a publicly funded agency that's currently under a criminal probe, also let its front-line workers and taxpayers down.

McGuinty says Ornge executives reassured Health Minister Deb Matthews that everything was fine at the agency after it came under fire for high salaries and questionable business practices.

He says those reassurances proved to be false and Matthews acted responsibly by calling in the provincial police.

But the opposition parties say the governing Liberals didn't act until the problems at Ornge became front-page news.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women's centre's campaign lauded

The London Abused Women's Centre's Shine the Light on Woman Abuse campaign has been recognized as one of the best communications campaigns in the world.

At the World Conference of Women's Shelters in Washington, D.C., the Avon Foundation for Women is recognizing the campaign as one of the five best globally to raise awareness about violence against women. The winner will be presented with an award by Reese Witherspoon Feb. 28. AM980/AM980.CA

Help support Learning Disabilities Association

The London chapter of the Learning Disabilities Association is hosting A Night at the Oskars Friday at 6 p.m. at Windermere Manor.

The fundraiser features a five-course meal, the Starbright Band, wine raffle, silent auction and other festivities.

Tickets are $100 per person, $700 for a table of eight and $850 for a table of 10. For more info, visit ldalondon.ca. METRO

For more news, visit metronews.ca

Pension time bomb?

Minister to younger Canadians: Reforms now — or you'll pay later

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Human Resources Minister Diane Finley, pictured in Toronto on Tuesday, gave her personal guarantee that current retirees won't be touched.

The federal government on Tuesday aimed its pension-cutting pitch at younger Canadians.

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley said in Toronto the coming federal budget will define major changes to old-age security, the program that gives about $500 a month to 98 per cent of people over 65.

Unless the government acts now, younger Canadians will face impossible choices of higher taxes, higher deficits or fewer social programs, she said.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be pegged into a situation where we are faced with a choice between the country's financial security, and our commitment to aging Canadians who have worked long and hard to build this great nation."

Finley added: "We will need to ensure that our government has the fiscal room to meet the various needs of an aging population ... without putting an undue tax burden on younger generations."

While other countries have acted to increase the age of eligibility to keep in line with aging populations, Canada has stood still, she said. "It's ticking along as if things haven't changed demographically in 50 years."

OAS is tightly entwined with the guaranteed income supplement or GIS, a top-up for low-income seniors. The two-part system is widely credited for dramatically reducing poverty among seniors over the last 30 years.

"Pushing seniors into poverty is not leadership."
NEW DEMOCRAT MP MATTHEW KELLWAY, SPEAKING AFTER FINLEY'S SPEECH

Now that Ottawa is poised to lay out a plan in the next budget that could raise the age of eligibility to 67 from today's 65, opposition members and a wide spectrum of experts have pointed to the need to consider vulnerable people over 60.

Finley did not say how changes would affect low-income seniors who depend on pension benefits to stay above water.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RESPONSE TO CULL

New rules protect sled dogs

A working dog's life has just got a little easier.

Almost two years after a gruesome sled-dog cull, the B.C. government has introduced another layer of protection for working dogs.

The Sled Dog Code of Practice sets out standards of care for everything from health, nutrition and housing to working conditions, transportation and euthanasia.

The new rules come after the B.C. chapter of the SPCA uncovered a mass grave of 56 sled dogs near Whistler last year. The case drew international outrage.

Marcie Moriarty, general manager of cruelty investigations, said the regulations will "provide minimum standards that will improve working dogs' welfare."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parents fit for trial

The parents of a toddler whose remains were found in a suitcase in Jamaica have been declared fit to stand trial. The couple, who four years ago admitted to abandoning their infant daughter in a freezing Toronto stairwell, appeared in a Jamaican court Tuesday after undergoing a psychiatric evaluation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veterans get pledge

Ottawa will make it easier for veterans to understand their disability benefits.

It promises to improve the information given to veterans as to why they have been awarded or denied benefits.

A report Monday from veterans ombudsman Guy Parent accused the government of failing injured veterans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Food blocked by al-Shabab: Kenyan army

The Kenyan army is blaming militants for blocking the movement of food and other goods into southern Somalia, which officials say is in the beginning stages of a humanitarian crisis.

Khadra Muhamud Aden, a Somali woman in her 80s, says food supplies are running low because there is no way to transport food from either the Kenyan border or the Somali port of Kismayo because of fighting between Kenyan troops and the al-Qaida-affiliated Somali militant group al-Shabab.

The cutting of food supplies has slowed the Kenyan army's advance toward Kismayo. Instead of fighting forward, troops are delivering food aid to those in need as part of their attempt to win favour in areas up until recently controlled by al-Shabab.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's stance

- Kenya sent hundreds of troops into Somalia in October to pursue al-Shabab militants
- Kenya accuses al-Shabab militants of cross-border attacks and the kidnapping of 10 Kenyans and four Europeans
- These incidents threatened to destroy Kenya's tourism industry, a key source of revenue for the economy.

Mouth. Shut

▶ A Palestinian woman holds a poster depicting Islamic Jihad member Khader Adnan with a locked mouth during a demonstration in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

BERNAT ARMANGUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free to end hunger strike

Adnan agreed to end his 66-day hunger strike protesting his imprisonment without charge, after reaching a deal with Israel that will free him in April, the Israeli Justice Ministry said Tuesday.

Afghans outraged over burned Qur'ans

MUSADEQ SADEQ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Afghan protesters shout slogans in front of the U.S. base of Bagram, Tuesday.

The U.S. apologized Tuesday for the burning of Muslim holy books that had been pulled from the shelves of a detention-centre library adjoining a major base in eastern Afghanistan because they contained extremist messages or inscriptions.

The White House echoed military officials in saying that the burning of Qur'ans and other Islamic reading material that had been tossed in a pile of garbage was an accident.

But more than 2,000 Afghans protested the incident, which stoked rising anti-foreign sentiment and fuelled Afghan claims that foreign troops disrespect their culture and religion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judge defends ruling for abortion

A retired Massachusetts judge is defending her decision to order a mentally ill woman to have an abortion and be sterilized against her wishes.

Christina Harms, who retired last month, defended her ruling in a letter she sent Monday to other Massachusetts family court judges, saying she believed the schizophrenic woman would have chosen to have an abortion if she had been mentally competent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIM releases PlayBook update

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ An employee holds a BlackBerry Playbook tablet at Research in Motion's annual meeting in July 2011.

Analysts say the long-delayed announcement may come too late for the struggling company, which still lags behind in the growing tablet market

Ten months after the release of Research in Motion's first tablet, the device finally has an app to access email.

But analysts say it may be too late for the Waterloo, Ont.-based company to make a dent in the tablet market, particularly with a new iPad rumoured to be on the way, possibly within weeks.

RIM released an update for its PlayBook tablet Tuesday, adding a host of features including the ability to access email without connecting to a BlackBerry or using a web-based account, The email app can consolidate corporate and personal accounts as well as messages from social networks including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

"It's just so difficult to break into this market or really significantly change it at this point," said Mark Tauschek, lead research analyst for Info-Tech Research Group.

The 2.0 version of the PlayBook operating system also includes web browser enhancements, new calendar, contacts and video chat apps, and an updated version of BlackBerry Bridge. That app allows users to control a BlackBerry as though it were a remote control for a PlayBook. Users can also open a document on a BlackBerry and have it viewed on a PlayBook. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tablet trounced

- According to a survey by the Media Technology Monitor, about 11 per cent of anglophone Canadians said they owned a tablet late last year.
- The vast majority, about 71 per cent, said they owned an iPad, while 13 per cent said they had a PlayBook. Another 13 per cent said they had a competing tablet device.

U.K. court OK's serving claims via Facebook

Status update: You're sued.

Legal authorities said Tuesday that a High Court judge in England has approved the use of Facebook to serve legal claims.

Lawyers in a commercial dispute were granted permission last week to serve a suit against a defendant via the popular social networking site.

Justice Nigel Teare permitted the unconventional method of service during a pretrial hearing into a case which pits two investment managers against a brokerage firm they accuse of overcharging them.

A former trader and an ex-broker, Fabio De Biase and Anjam Ahmad, are also alleged to have been in on the scam.

Jenni Jenkins, who represents Ahmad, said lawyers in the case had been trying to track De Biase in order to serve him with legal documents. She said that a copy of the suit was left at his last known address, but that it wasn't clear whether he was still living there.

The lawyers didn't have his email address, so they applied for permission to send him the claim through Facebook.

Jenkins, an associate with London-based law firm Memery Crystal, said the lawyers were confident that de Biase's account was still active.

De Biase was given extra time to respond to the claim "to allow for the possibility that he wasn't accessing his account regularly," she added. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Please donate this February at heartandstroke.ca and make death wait.
HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. TUESDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
+ 165.06 (12,623.36)	- 0.43¢ (100.34¢ US	+ $2.60 US ($105.84 US)	$2.63 US (- 6¢ US)	$1,758.50 US (+ $32.60 US)

December sales down: StatsCan

HOLIDAY RETAIL. Canadian shoppers reined in spending before Christmas this year as retail sales slumped 0.2 per cent in December despite apparent deep discount sales from stores.

The fall-off followed a revised 0.4 per cent pop in November, an indication that shoppers had both completed their Christmas shopping early and were cautious consumers during the holiday season, analysts said.

An RBC post-holiday poll released at about the same time as the Statistics Canada data found 69 per cent of respondents said they managed to keep their Christmas spending in check. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chorus pairing with Air Canada to counter WestJet

REGIONAL AIRLINES. The parent company of regional carrier Jazz Air will work to help Air Canada compete with Calgary-based WestJet when their rival launches a low-fare airline serving smaller domestic markets, Chorus Aviation chief executive Joe Randell said Tuesday.

WestJet recently announced it will launch a low-fare, no-frills regional airline, expected to intensify competition in smaller domestic markets with rival Air Canada and regional partner Jazz Air for business and leisure class travellers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doubts remain after Greek bailout passed

A second, $172 billion US bailout and a deep debt write-off for financially stricken Greece will ward off a financial disaster in Europe.

Economists, however, only give the deal a slim chance of putting the country on the path to economic recovery — and steadying its place in Europe's currency union.

Agreement on the bailout, reached early Tuesday after an all-night summit of finance ministers seven months after it was first proposed, will give Greece $172 billion US in loans through 2014 from other eurozone governments and the International Monetary Fund. It's the country's second bailout, following a previous rescue in 2010 that didn't return the country to solvency.

The agreement also assumes that banks and investors owed money by Greece will take new bonds that reduce their holdings by more than half.

The finance ministers from Greece and the other 16 countries that use the euro wrangled until the early morning over the details of the rescue, squeezing final last-minute concessions out of private holders of Greek debt who agreed to lose 53.5 per cent of the face value of their investment to avoid even more severe losses expected if Greece fails to pay 14.5 billion euro in debt coming due March 20. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fear of failure

- The fear is that an uncontrolled bankruptcy could unleash market panic across the rest of the continent, further unsettling other struggling debt-stricken countries such as Italy or Spain.
- Risks of failure include the chance that Greece's economy remains in a deep recession instead of returning to growth in 2013 as the deal assumes.

THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos speaks during a news conference in Athens on Tuesday.

AND THE AWARD FOR LARGEST DEMOGRAPHIC GOES TO ...

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

The Oscars are coming up this Sunday.

I love the Oscars — the glitz, the fun, the drama, the suspense.

Of course, when my favourite movie doesn't win and some piece of schmaltz does, I'm left braying at the TV: "Who voted for Driving Miss Daisy? Who are these people? Don't they know anything?"

Now, thanks to the LA Times, I have the answer, which is: People Just Like Me.

After an exhaustive and pointless investigation — pointless because even though millions are starving and the planet is in peril, the LA Times is squandering precious dwindling journalistic resources on revealing the demographic makeup of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — the results confirm your worst nightmare.

Ninety-four per cent of the people who vote the Oscars are white. Seventy-seven per cent are male. Their median age is 62, and just 14 per cent of the membership is under 50.

Two per cent are black.

This explains a lot. Like why Steven Spielberg must be nominated for something every year, even if it's War Horse. Steven Spielberg is the king of all the old white guys.

It explains why your little indie fave did not get nominated for best picture. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, which stars Tom Hanks, the duke of all the old white guys, did.

It explains why Bob Hope hosted the Oscars 18 times and why Billy Crystal's back this year, after Oscar's tragic experiment with the under-50 demographic last year. Remember James Franco and Anne Hathaway? Why send a couple of dumb kids out to do an old white guy's job when you can get Billy?

Eddie Murphy was supposed to host the Oscars this year, but quit to support show producer Brett Ratner (old white guy) who was fired for an alleged racial slur. How's that for irony?

Anyway, now that Billy's back, order has been restored in the old-white-guy universe, and we can get on with voting for Steve.

The problem, as anyone who ever hangs out in west L.A. knows, is that almost everyone in the movie business is an old white guy, and it's really hard to break in unless, like their descendants, you "know somebody." So if you're black, Latino, female and — especially — under 50, shut up and go to Sundance.

That said, the boys are suckers for interracial drama (see Driving Miss Daisy). And The Help, which takes a timely, fearless look at interracial drama circa 1963, is nominated this year. So my peeps are going to have a tough time deciding between that and Steve Who Must Be Nominated.

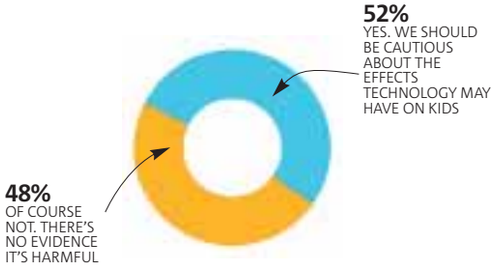
My money's on The Help. We may be old, but we're enlightened.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Do you think Wi-Fi should be banned in schools?


52%
YES. WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE EFFECTS TECHNOLOGY MAY HAVE ON KIDS
48%
OF COURSE NOT. THERE'S NO EVIDENCE IT'S HARMFUL

Local tweets

- **@zb_armstrong:** Saw one of the new LTC busses this morning. They really DO look like they're smiling. #ldnont
- **@AbilityFirstLnd:** Happy Fat Tuesday everyone! What kind of pancakes do you like? #shrovetuesday #ldnont
- **@chadder87:** Just hit 4000 tweets. And wanted to dedicate it to the @prideldnfest a great community initiative coming July 22nd - July 29th! #ldnont
- **@379_Deanne:** #ldnont - I believe in arts, community support and affordable housing - I do NOT believe in the proposed tax freeze.
- **@CarterKS:** Wow. Budget day the day before Lent. You can't make this stuff up. #ldnont
- **@ksPossessed:** Eek! Taking the 2 Dundas far east today. Pray for me! #ldnont
- **@AirForceMark:** When did turn signals become an option? Surely not all the people I saw driving are so lazy they can't push the turn signal stalk! #ldnont
- **@RachFee:** Out of coffee. #seriousproblems

Daily Zoom

JANE THOMAS/SOLENT NEWS

Incredible bubble

Photographer makes 'pop art'

MACROPHOTOGRAPHY. It's the humble bubble, revealed in extraordinary, psychedelic detail. Amateur photographer Jane Thomas's close-up shots capture the stunning patterns that form in soapy water before it is blown out through an ordinary bubble wand. Thomas told Metro she discovered "bubble art" while washing dishes.

MWN

60 seconds

Jane Thomas, 58, retired music teacher and amateur photographer from Ayrshire, southwest Scotland.

How did you discover "bubble art"?
I was doing the washing up! I saw some soap suds inside a grill pan. On closer inspection, I noticed they were changing colour and developing patterns. Straight away I thought it would be a great subject for macrophotography, so I forgot about the dishes and got out the camera!

Do you add colours to this bubble mixture?
No, I just use washing-up liquid or shampoo — the thicker and less diluted, the better, so that patterns move slower and last longer. Like fingerprints, no two patterns are ever the same — only more colourful. The colours are natural and anyone can see them with the naked eye if they hold a flat film of soap in a ring and hold it up to the light.

What inspired you to take such colourful photographs?
My husband Geoffrey. Although he is totally blind, years of describing things to him has made me more observant. I notice things in more detail these days.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON

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2 scene

Queen concert

Former American Idol singer Adam Lambert is joining landmark rock band Queen for one concert this summer, at Sonisphere 2012. Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor confirmed Tuesday that the American singer-songwriter will perform vocals for the band's headline set on the second day of the Sonisphere 2012 rock festival. The concert takes place July 7 at Knebworth Park in Stevenage, north of London. Lambert, 30, has sung with Queen before. In 2009 he performed We Are the Champions on the U.S. reality show that made his name and then last November he sang an eight-minute set at the MTV Europe Awards to celebrate Queen's Global Icon Award. Freddie Mercury's final concert with Queen also took place at Knebworth, in August 1986.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canuck sound editor David Giammarco goes from tire factory to Oscar red carpet.

Rihanna, Brown reunite

On Monday, they both put out tracks featuring each other ◗ We all remember what happened three years ago ◗ Should we applaud their collaboration, or be appalled?

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS

SCOTT GRIES/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brown was featured prominently at the Grammys this year, indicating the music industry had forgiven him for beating Rihanna before the 2009 Grammys.

You'll never forget that image of Rihanna from 2009, after she was beaten by her then-boyfriend, R&B singer Chris Brown. But can you forgive? Apparently, Rihanna can: On Monday, she released a remix of her hit song Birthday Cake featuring an appearance by Brown.

"I've been missing your body," he raps, while she adds: "I know you wanna bite this, it's so enticing." (The YouTube video she posted has no images, just text that says: "Yikes.")

Meanwhile, Brown released a track called Turn Up the Music with vocals by Rihanna.

Earlier that day — Rihanna's 24th birthday — the duo also tweeted one another sweet messages.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROBYN," wrote Brown, using her birth name. Rihanna thanked him via retweet, just minutes later.

Their apparent reconciliation comes after controversy last week, when Brown was featured prominently at the Grammys, indicating the music industry has also forgiven him.

Tweeting after the show last week, musician Miranda Lambert wrote: "Where I come from, beating up on a women is never OK."

The whole drama leaves us wondering what this says to women who have been victims of assault within a romantic relationship.

Dr. Sheri Jacobson, clinical director of Harley Therapy, a psychotherapy centre, believes it could send a disturbing message about how maltreatment can be overlooked, or even accepted: "In a romantic sense, it has the danger of a creating a false reality as not everyone has the mental or emotional capacity for change," she tells Metro.

"Hopefully it won't encourage people to look up to Rihanna and Brown as a new ideal, and make them think it's OK to go back to a violent partner."

On the other hand, Brown seems to have learned from his mistakes. He has apologized on television for the 2009 incident.

"I'd like to think that we can believe in people to repair, heal and develop," says Jacobson. "Brown appears to have learned his lesson and has certainly paid heavily for his behaviour toward Rihanna. In that light, it would be distressing if they were to be frowned upon — one strike and he's out.

"If you really care for someone," she continues, "as seems to be the case here, you tend to overlook and tolerate their behaviour. You can't carry it through without some kind of human emotion, romantic or not.

And whatever happens between them, people will always be watching."

Fans react

After the birthday tweets between Brown and Rihanna, followers responded with a flurry of mixed reactions.

- **Optimism:** "C'mon guys -_- I love ya together!!!! Get back together! If ya really love each other! Effff these haterZ! <3 muahzz!," one fan tweeted.
- **Concern:** Another follower was less enthusiastic, tweeting to Rihanna, "Remember bobby brown and Whitney Houston and what happen to her thanks to him. I love ur singing and don't want anything to happen to you <3."

Will Good Deeds go unnoticed?

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Most "name" directors have a trademark that makes their movies instantly recognizable. Is there a long tracking shot? Must be Scorsese. How about a blue sun flare? That's Spielberg. A car trunk shot? Thanks Tarantino. A man in drag as a pistol-packing grandmother? Well that would be Tyler Perry. His trademark isn't as auspicious as, say, John Woo's slow motion doves, but what Tyler's movies lack stylistically they generally make up in box office success.

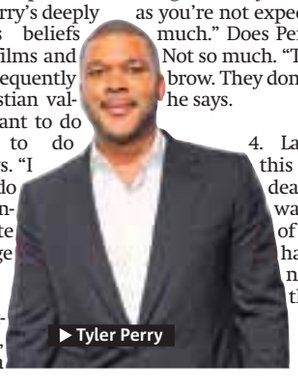
This weekend's Good Deeds isn't likely to make Tyler's name synonymous with auteur, but when Forbes calls you the highest paid man in entertainment — he took home $130 million between May 2010 and 2011 — no other title really matters. But what if you've never seen a Tyler Perry movie? For the uninitiated, here's a checklist of how to spot a Perry film.

1. Is there a character named Mabel (Madea) Simmons? She is the cornerstone on which Perry built his empire. Perry has played the argumentative character in dozens of productions on stage, TV and in movies like Madea Goes to Jail. Entertainment Weekly put the character on its end-of-the-decade "best-of" list saying, "Tyler Perry's Madea is the profane, gun-toting granny you never had but (maybe) wish you did." Weird accent — she says things like, "Halleluyer! Praise da lort!" — and bad behaviour aside, Madea is usually used to teach a lesson.

2. Is the story melodramatic, up-lifting and/or redemptive? While none of those traits are exclusive to Perry's films, he manages to highlight the melodramatic aspects of his stories in ways not usually seen outside of The Young and the Restless. As for uplift and redemption, Perry's deeply held religious beliefs bleed into his films and plots, which frequently reference Christian values. "I don't want to do movies just to do movies," he says. "I want to do movies that inspire, motivate and change lives."

3. Do the critics hate it? If so, it might be a Perry film. His average Rotten Tomatoes rating clocks in around 50 per cent, and The Times suggests that his movies have "a little something for everyone, as long as you're not expecting too much." Does Perry care? Not so much. "The highbrow. They don't get it," he says.

4. Lastly, and this is the dead give-away, most of his films have his name in the title.



▶ Tyler Perry

GETTY IMAGES

Aniston denies being latest home wrecker

Former Friends' star also squashes rumours she is pregnant with triplets

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Since Justin Theroux broke up with his girlfriend of 14 years shortly before getting together with Jennifer Aniston, the former Friends star has been dodging claims that she's a home wrecker. But Aniston insists she and Theroux — who met while filming Wanderlust — didn't get together until later.

"Nothing happened on that movie," she tells GQ magazine. "It's a rumour — it's the easy rumour, but nothing happened. We were just friends."

Speaking of rumours, Aniston continues to use her current press tour to clear up a few stories floating around about her.

"I'm not having triplets. Not having twins. Nor am I having one baby. I did not elope," she tells the magazine. "The one time I do say, 'Yes! I'm pregnant!' they'll be like, 'Pfft. Right.'" METRO

"It's a rumour — it's the easy rumour, but nothing happened."
JENNIFER ANISTON

▶ Jennifer Aniston is putting rumours to bed once again.

Klum sticking to her guns on Seal

It looks like any hope of Heidi Klum and Seal patching things up have been dashed, as Klum reportedly feels better and better about her decision to file for divorce every day, according to People magazine.

"They have had very little contact and Heidi wants to keep it this way," a source says.

"She feels less stressed out now and feels it's best to be away from Seal, so she doesn't get confused about her feelings. She is moving forward with the divorce."

Some fans held out hope for reconciliation as the famous couple continued to wear their wedding rings — and apparently they weren't alone. METRO

▶ Heidi Klum

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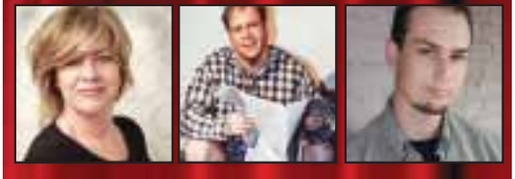

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A new side of Florida

From Dali to animatronic dolphins, here's a side of Florida you never knew existed

David Downing, of the St. Pete and Clearwater visitor bureau, shares what's hot this winter

DOROTHY ROBINSON
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

THROUGH A LENS DARKLY/FLICKR

▶ The pier at Fort DeSoto.

Great for families

"Parents magazine just rated our Fort DeSoto Park the No. 1 Family Beach in the USA," Downing says. He attributes this ranking to the fact the shallow beach is "almost like a swimming pool." The picnic areas, campgrounds and bike rentals all add to the family-friendly destination.

Pack your shades

Leave the umbrella at home. "We hold the world record for the most consecutive days of sunshine," boasts Downing. "We had 762 days of sunshine — in a row."

Live the movies

You can meet Winter, the world's most famous animatronic dolphin and inspiration for the film Dolphin Tale, at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The exhibit Winter's Dolphin Tale Adventure showcases Winter as well as sets from the film.

FIFTH WORLD ART/FLICKR

▶ St. Petersburg at night.

Drink up!

Although St. Petersburg might have a reputation as a sleepy beach town, Downing boasts that the nightlife is world-class.

"In a five-block radius, there are 25 bars, restaurants, nightclubs, dancing, live music — and most stay open until 3 a.m."

He tells us one of the best things about St. Petersburg is the convenient fact that you don't need a car.

"If you stay in our downtown, you can just walk around or rent a golf car for a couple of bucks to hit all of the sites," he says.

Meet Florida's cultural side

The Dali Museum just celebrated their first anniversary of a new facility, according to Downing. "It's the most comprehensive collection of Dali's work in the world," he says. October will mark the first major visiting exhibition by Jeff Koons.

Also a must-see? The Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg — the new director led the education department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for 18 years.

SUPERWEBDEVELOPER/FLICKR

▶ Clearwater isn't all beaches.

Travel in brief

Florida's tourism agency says a record 85.9 million people visited the state last year. Visit Florida said that the estimated total was a 4.4 per cent increase over 2010 and the highest number since 2007.
The number shows Florida tourism — the state's leading industry — has rebounded from a crippling recession and 2010 oil spill that kept visitors away from its beaches and attractions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just in time for Carnival: A beginner's guide to Brazil's city of contrasts

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The deep secrets of Lake Tahoe

Delve into some of the glamorous history in Lake Tahoe ◗ It's the perfect place for history buffs and hikers

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

When all the glam and glare of the Vegas lights get a bit too bright, not far away lies a little haven of casino history, set against one of the most stunning and scenic backdrops in Nevada.

Back in the day, Lake Tahoe was 'the' place where stars, dignitaries, and even the notorious Rat Pack came to stay and play while recharging their famous batteries.

ISTOCK

▶ Lake Tahoe offers a respite from the lights of Las Vegas.

Now, being a major Sinatra fan, it was a particular thrill to pull up to the front entrance of the very retro, very cool, very old school Cal Neva Lodge, especially since it almost seemed as though Frank, Dean and Sammy might still be crooning a tune inside the Frank Sinatra showroom.

In fact Frank owned the resort for a few years back in the '60s. Even the big neon sign out front hasn't changed much since the Rat Pack hung out here.

Once inside it was like walking back in time. Some slots still actually worked with real coins instead of high-tech player cards.

One of the main draw cards for me, despite my claustrophobia, was the little-known secret underground tunnel tour.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Rat Pack

Four days a week, Neva offers visitors a chance to go deep underground, to experience a little known piece of celebrity history. I felt like I was entering an ancient brick dungeon, as our guide explained this cramped tunnel was built so Sinatra could hide from the throngs during his daily trip from his luxury cabin out back, to the casino showroom. Deep in the bowels of this dark and spooky passageway, I noticed a small X marked on the wall, which, it turns out, marks a very notorious spot. This is supposedly the exact place where then-president John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe consummated their clandestine relationship, while unsuspecting gamblers spent their money on the casino floor directly above.

"Ring a ding ding!" as Frank would say. That's some entertaining folklore for the $10 tour price. The Cal Neva and other Tahoe casinos still have that intimate small-town feel. Despite the fact Tahoe has obviously expanded over the years, it has managed to retain its natural beauty. Where else can you ski and hike amid stunning scenery all morning, and still get back to the casino in time to lose the kids college money by nightfall?

Other cool things to do in Lake Tahoe

- **Take a self-guided snowmobile tour:** Roar through the Sierras in style with your own personal machine.
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Classic flavours for timeless flicks

This Sunday, the stars will gather in Hollywood for the Academy Awards Here, we take a look back at two early classics that won best picture — complete with themed snacks to serve at your Oscar party

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Casablanca

This recipe makes 30 cookies.

In The Chips: Casablanca

Everybody comes to Rick's Café Américain in the movie Casablanca, whether it's for cocktails, food, forged letters of transit or hopes of winning big at roulette.

Though you'll likely want to stick to the first two.

If you're looking to gamble on something new, why not try some potato chip cookies, a twist on the traditional snack.

We can't guarantee your friends will be shocked — shocked! — but they may be mildly surprised.

Potato Chip Cookies Preparation:

1. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat together the unsalted butter, with brown sugar.
2. Add the egg and beat again. Add the flour, baking powder, finely crushed potato chips and sliced almonds. Mix just until combined.
3. Scoop by teaspoonful onto parchment-lined baking sheets and bake for 10 to 12 minutes in a 180 C (350 F) oven.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) unsalted butter
- 250 ml (1 packed cup) of brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
- 250 ml (1 cup) finely crushed potato chips
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sliced almonds

Moroccan Sour Cocktail

Here's a recipe for a spicy whiskey sour that would be right at home in the '40s nightclub scene that serves as the background for Casablanca's story of love and war.

Preparation:

1. In double old-fashioned glass, stir together whiskey, lemon juice, sugar, ginger, turmeric and cinnamon until sugar is completely dissolved. Add 1 ice cube and top with a splash of seltzer water. Garnish with a lemon twist.

Ingredients:

- 60 ml (2 oz) whiskey
- Juice of half a lemon
- 5 ml (1 tsp) sugar
- Pinch dry ground ginger
- Pinch of turmeric
- Pinch of cinnamon
- Seltzer water or club soda
- Lemon twist, for garnish

Scarlett Fever: Gone with the Wind

This appetizer uses banana bread, a food that came into vogue in the 1930s as baking powder and baking soda became staples of the American kitchen.

It's not likely you'll have leftovers, but if you do, fiddle-dee-dee! Tomorrow is another day.

Manchego Banana Bites Preparation:

1. Slice banana bread thinly and cut into 5-cm (2-inch) rounds with a small cookie cutter.
2. In skillet, melt butter over medium-high. Toast banana bread rounds in buttered skillet.
3. Top with Manchego cheese and pecans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 1 banana bread
- butter for frying
- 24 each Manchego cheese slices and toasted pecans

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gone With the Wind

This recipe makes 24 rounds.

The Scarlett Cocktail

A starving Scarlett O'Hara resorts to grubbing up radishes in the famous "I'll never be hungry again" scene that ends the first half of the classic Gone With The Wind.

Luckily, you can try something much tastier with this crimson cocktail featuring cranberry and cherry juice.

Preparation:

1. In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine cranberry juice, cherry juice, vodka and lime juice. Shake and pour into a martini glass. Garnish with fresh cherries.

Ingredients:

- 60 ml (2 oz) cranberry juice
- 60 ml (2 oz) cherry juice
- 60 ml (2 oz) citrus vodka
- 30 ml (1 oz) lime juice
- Fresh cherries, for garnish

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Don't let rejection stand in your way

It's easy to get discouraged during a job hunt But even a 'no' means you can focus on other opportunities

LAUREN STEIN
TALENTEGG.CA

It's a rush getting that email or phone call — when those hours of rewriting, reformatting and self-branding have inspired someone to ask whether the flesh-and-blood You might be available to meet.

I was bursting with anticipation when I recently discovered, thanks to some LinkedIn sleuthing, an opening for a social media/communications position at a company that just happened to employ an old acquaintance of mine.

I sent my contact a message immediately, pouncing on the opportunity.

As a recent graduate of the Concordia University creative writing program, let me tell you, the worst part isn't getting that rejection letter — it's waiting for it to arrive.

The best part of working your network is that waiting is almost non-existent. I heard back from my contact the same day, not only with a request for my paper-self, but an inquiry about my availabilities so that an interview could be scheduled.

Within hours I had an interview set and some pep in my step.

Things got a little murky when, the following day, my contact had to swap our interview to another time, and I proactively suggested a place and time. I never received a confirmation.

Fast-forward to the scheduled time and place: I decided to assume that no response leaned toward the affirmative. I was prepared, dressed appropriately, arrived early. And I waited. I waited for a half hour before I sent my contact a message to ask if we were still meeting. I waited another 15 minutes to see if maybe he got lost/stuck in traffic/couldn't find parking/slept in.

I eventually did get a response from my contact, stating that the position had already been filled.

Like most things that involve putting yourself out there (job hunting, writing, dating, Canadian Idol auditions), the easiest thing to do is get discouraged. If you've just graduated, whether you're working part-time or volunteering alongside your job search process, don't wallow if things aren't working out.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Lauren Stein

Key take-aways

- Use your network — it's not a sure thing, but it will get you talking to the right people
- Don't get discouraged by rejection
- Find an activity or hobby unrelated to job hunting that you enjoy

Where I am now

I'm still on the prowl for career-launching employment, but am currently part-timing at a coffee house and I've applied to the creative book publishing post-grad certificate program at Humber College. I'm also writing and submitting my work to various literary magazines, for which, even after 100 days of waiting, I always get some kind of response.

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On edge in Columbus

'It's the most uncertainty I've ever seen,' says Blue Jackets' Umberger

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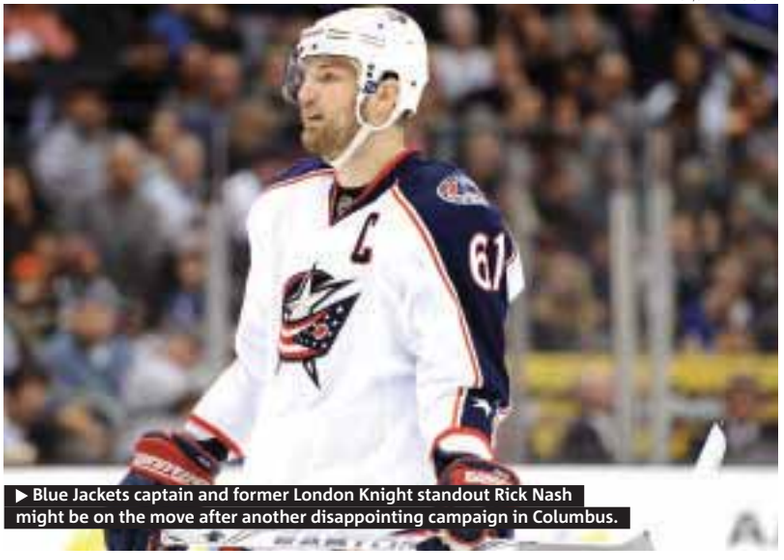

▶ Blue Jackets captain and former London Knight standout Rick Nash might be on the move after another disappointing campaign in Columbus.

On the surface, it's like any other pre-game skate for Rick Nash and the Columbus Blue Jackets.

When Nash barrels in on the net and scores during a drill, his teammates give him a cheer. The mood appears upbeat.

But as the NHL trade deadline approaches, rumours that the former London Knight could be skating with a new team continue to swirl.

The Blue Jackets captain has been the face of the franchise for nearly a decade and he's made an impression on Ohio's capital city. The thought of him leaving before Monday's deadline is unsettling to everyone involved.

"You try to be professional and handle it the best you can but we're also human," centre Derek MacKenzie said Tuesday ahead of a game against San Jose. "You play with these guys for months, sometimes years at a time, it's really scary, especially when you start hearing names like Rick Nash. To possibly lose a guy like him, I think it weighs on us."

While the last-place Blue Jackets have played better hockey of late, a horrible start to the season took them out of playoff contention early. As the season dragged on, changes were expected.

While Nash is the highest-profile Blue Jacket to be mentioned in rumours, Derick Brassard and Jeff Carter have also been included in trade talk.

Nash has remained quiet about and didn't speak to the media Tuesday.

"I'm not going to lie, it's tough hearing these rumours," said left-winger R.J. Umberger. "Obviously, we're not in the spot we want to be, for another year. We're all upset about it here and we know a lot of changes are going to happen."

The waiting is the hardest part, says Brassard.

"Guys wish it was Monday (deadline day) tomorrow," he said.

The frustration has become evident in the stands at Nationwide Arena, down to the Columbus front office and inside the dressing room.

"You look at the guys next to you and you wonder if in a few days from now, you're going to be playing against him," said MacKenzie.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wild cards

These four player aren't that likely to be traded, but if they do move it could shake up the market.

James van Riemsdyk, Philadelphia
The big forward has a lot of suitors and should net a decent return if GM Paul Holmgren elects to make a move.

Cory Schneider, Vancouver
It's hard to imagine the Canucks parting with an excellent insurance policy in goal, but it remains an outside possibility with GMs talking trade.

Zach Parise, New Jersey
The Devils risk losing their captain for nothing, but with the team climbing the standings, it's extremely unlikely he'll be moved.

Jack Johnson, Los Angeles
With the Kings looking to make deals, Johnson's name has emerged as a potential trade piece.

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Fantuz brings veteran insight to Hamilton

At just 28 years of age, Andy Fantuz suddenly finds himself a CFL elder statesman.

On Tuesday, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats introduced a tanned Fantuz, who spent last week on vacation in Africa, after agreeing to terms with the free-agent slotback Friday. Fantuz signed a four-year contract with the Ticats after spending the first six years of his career with the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Hamilton dug deep to secure Fantuz as the native of Chatham will reportedly earn $190,000 annually. Fantuz, the CFL's 2010 top Canadian, will open the season as the Ticats' second-oldest receiver behind 32-year-old slotback Dave Stala and help to mentor the club's young talent.

"I can help them out and teach them some of the things I've acquired ... and some of the tips on the field," Fantuz said. "I want to work with the whole group, really bring the team together and try to make it a cohesive unit and become a family and try to get us working as a team."

Saskatchewan and Hamilton both pursued Fantuz hard, with the former University of Western Ontario star saying the opportunity to play close to home and reunite with coach George Cortez factored into his decision. Cortez served as the Roughriders' offensive coordinator in Fantuz's rookie season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CATHIE COWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I've always wanted to come back home and get a chance to play in southwestern Ontario and when the opportunity arose, all the pieces fell into place."
ANDY FANTUZ

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Joffrey Lupul collides with New Jersey's Anton Volchenkov as Martin Brodeur looks on.

Leafs fall to Devils in OT

Fayne scores winner as New Jersey takes 4th in a row

DEVILS	LEAFS
4	3

Mark Fayne scored 1:18 into overtime as the New Jersey Devils beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-3 on Tuesday.

Fayne's shot from the point was going to go wide of the net but Leafs goaltender Jonas Gustavsson decided to play the puck. The shot deflected in off Gustavsson's arm.

Petr Sykora had a goal and an assist for New Jersey (35-20-4), while David Clarkson and former Maple Leafs forward Alexei Ponikarovsky also scored. The Devils have now won four games in a row.

Phil Kessel's 31st goal of the season forced overtime for Toronto (29-24-7) with 44 seconds left in the third period. Tim Connolly scored in the first period, while Clarke MacArthur had a goal in the second.

Martin Brodeur made 29 saves for the win, while Gustavsson stopped 28 for the Leafs.

Kessel's goal came as a result of the forward crashing the net. After Brodeur stopped Tyler Bozak's rush up the left side and despite some pressure from the Devils defence, Kessel got his stick to bang in the rebound.

Not long after Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf got out of the penalty box after a tripping penalty, the Devils jumped in front.

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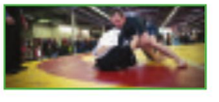

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By comparison

Chrysler 300c
Base price: $41,700
Limo-like V8 has 363 hp. 470-hp SRT8 right in R-Spec's price bracket.

Lincoln MKS EcoBoost
Base price: $55,400
Sedate sedan cruises with 355-hp turbocharged V6 and standard AWD.

Lexus GS 350
Base price: $53,850
New rear-driver missing 120 horsepower, but AWD, hybrid available.
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Engine

The heart of the transformation to R-Spec from an ordinary Genesis sedan sits between the front fenders. The displacement of the automaker's Tau-branded V8 has been increased to 5.0-litres from 4.6 and the horsepower/torque rating to 429 and 376 pound-feet from 385/333. For comparison, that's 17 horses more than the much-celebrated-by-Ford-fans 5.0 in the Mustang GT.

The new Hyundai R-Spec, is now the only Genesis V8 model available in Canada and employs the same powerplant as the larger and more luxurious Equus.

Bells and whistles

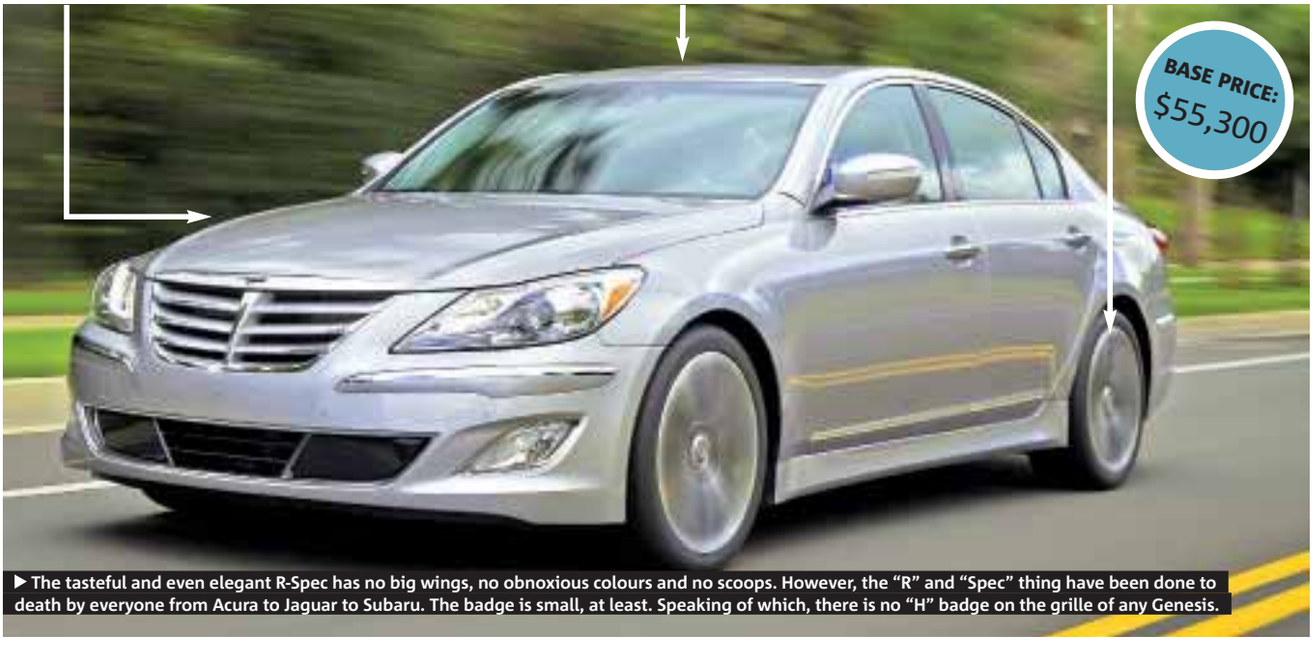
The R-spec theme continues inside with "tuxedo black" leather combined with bright trim surrounding the control panel and shifter.

And of course Hyundai's bells-and-whistles department has included most of the desirable items. That means you can count on a standard power sunroof, memory settings for the power front seats, heated front and rear seats plus steering wheel, woodgrain trim, front and rear park assist, backup camera and a 17-speaker premium sound package.

Performance

Despite the power bulge, the R-Spec still returns reasonable fuel economy of 13.1 l/100 km city and 8.1 highway.

On the performance front, Hyundai expects the R-Spec to run zero-to-60-m.p.h. (96 km/h) in the low-five-second range, which is pretty decent for a hefty 1,880-kilogram sedan.



▶ The tasteful and even elegant R-Spec has no big wings, no obnoxious colours and no scoops. However, the "R" and "Spec" thing have been done to death by everyone from Acura to Jaguar to Subaru. The badge is small, at least. Speaking of which, there is no "H" badge on the grille of any Genesis.

What does R-Spec spell?

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

In Aretha Franklin's monster hit, she cried out for a little "R-E-S-P-E-C-T." The one thing you could say about that song and Hyundai's similarly named Genesis "R-Spec" sedan is that they both have plenty of soul.

Hyundai has confounded more than a few critics with the success of its full-size rear-wheel-drive four-door that was launched for the 2009 model year.

How could the company that brought us the lowly Excel and subsequent econo-runners dare to think that it could run with the big dogs from Detroit, Germany and Japan?

The Genesis was a gutsy call for the Korea-based automaker, especially when fuel prices were surging and the economy was losing steam.

But the car's luxury leanings and comparatively modest price tag (likely aided by a reassuringly lengthy warranty) have allowed the Genesis to carve out a niche. It also spawned the larger and even more luxurious Equus.

For 2012, Hyundai is branching out the Genesis, taking it on a path that involves the development of a performance brand dubbed the R-Spec. Forget the rather unoriginal "R" and "Spec" to denote performance, and consider that this car actually has real performance.

Genesis R-Spec

- **Types:** Four-door, rear-wheel-drive full-size sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 5.0-litre DOHC V8 (429).
- **Transmission:** Eight-speed automatic.
- **Market position:** The R-Spec label denotes improved performance in much the same way that BMW's "M" cars and Mercedes-Benz's AMG denotes added sporting flavour.

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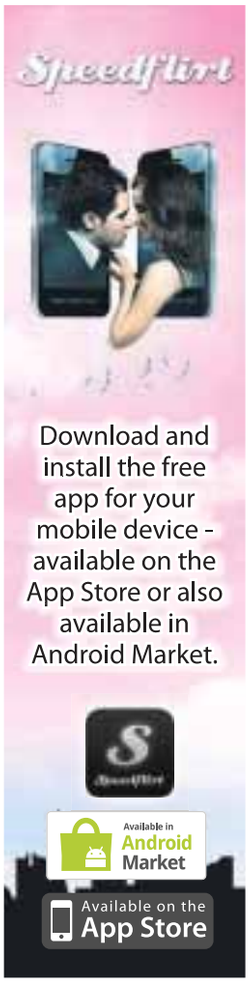
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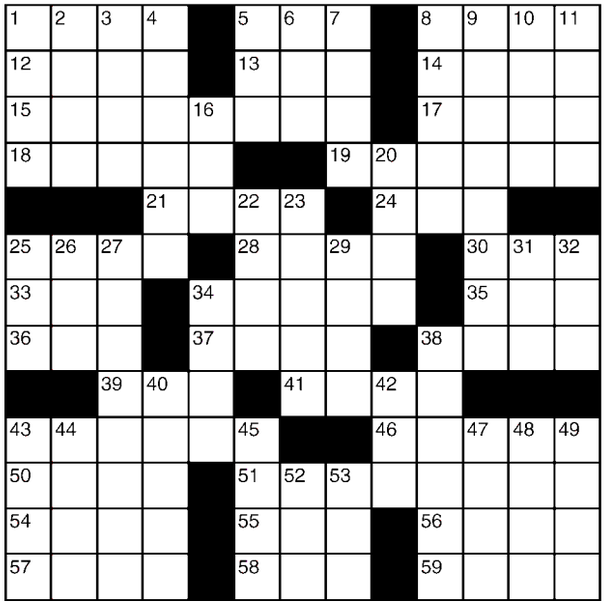

Across

1 Snake's tooth
5 Billboards
8 Song's ending
12 Waikiki wingding
13 Floral garland
14 Press
15 Going around the Earth
17 Fit of peevishness
18 Rigatoni, e.g.
19 Greek underworld goddess
21 — and crafts
24 — de plume
25 Heath
28 Re planes
30 Sprite
33 Bobby of hockey
34 Oust
35 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
36 Cribbage scorer
37 Give as an example
38 Impale
39 "That feels so good!"
41 Lotion additive
43 Horse-drawn cab
46 Reserved
50 Egyptian wading bird
51 Conventional
54 Dimension
55 Pod occupant
56 Portrayal
57 Undo a dele
58 Early bird?
59 "Woe is me!"

Down

1 Dud
2 Emanation
3 Arrests
4 Elvis' instrument
5 "The Greatest"
6 Lair
7 Sound of relief
8 Lake herring
9 Decoration
10 — -yourself kit
11 Initial chip
16 Pitch
20 Certain compound
22 Urban transport
23 Dividing walls
25 Swab the deck
26 Raw rock
27 Arrange systematically
29 Spool
31 Grazing land
32 Watch chain
34 Reverberate
38 Lady of Spain
40 Item in the plus column
42 "— la la!"
43 Greet the villain
44 Slightly
45 Sulk
47 "American —"
48 Pop flavor
49 Former spouses
52 Rule, for short
53 It's game?

▶ Yesterday's answer

O	V	E	R	■	J	U	T	■	D	E	L	E
R	A	V	E	■	A	S	H	■	I	L	E	X
O	L	E	A	N	D	E	R	■	S	A	V	E
■	■	■	S	U	E	■	I	R	O	N	I	C
C	A	R	O	B	■	B	L	O	W	■	■	■
A	M	E	N	■	C	O	L	A	N	D	E	R
M	B	A	■	A	U	D	E	N	■	A	G	O
P	O	M	A	N	D	E	R	■	B	L	O	T
■	■	■	R	E	D	S	■	C	R	E	S	S
S	P	R	A	W	L	■	S	P	A	■	■	■
A	R	A	B	■	I	S	L	A	N	D	E	R
N	A	I	L	■	N	E	O	■	C	A	S	H
K	Y	L	E	■	G	A	B	■	H	Y	P	O

Sudoku

1	7						9	4
		2	4			5		
6			9		1			
8				5		4	1	
				3				
	6	5		4				2
			7		6			5
		6			4	9		
4	9						3	8

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

7	9	2	1	4	8	3	5	6
3	8	6	2	7	5	9	4	1
4	5	1	9	6	3	8	2	7
5	1	9	7	3	4	2	6	8
8	2	4	6	1	9	5	7	3
6	3	7	5	8	2	1	9	4
2	4	8	3	5	7	6	1	9
9	6	3	4	2	1	7	8	5
1	7	5	8	9	6	4	3	2

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Mom Doris, I love you, you are a special women and I admired you, so when I grow I want be like you.... **WITH LOVE, YOUR DAUGHTER JUANITA**

Peshogak
You're My Peshogak :) day by day i fall in love more and i can't live with out you....i love you more then anything baby **YOUR SAMOOKA**

Jack, I'm proud of you. Thank you that we are not a missed connection anymore. Thank you for keeping with me. Thank you for being open and putting your pride aside for truth. Thank you for relieving pain and confusion. Thank you for being 25 and not 23! Did I mention how proud I am of you? Thank you my beautiful man for going the distance and for the possibilities that lay before us - who knows where it will lead xo **IRISH ROSE**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
You don't have to pretend you know all the answers. No one will think less of you for getting a few things wrong.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Someone whose power exceeds your own may seem threatening but planets indicate there is nothing he or she can do to hurt you.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
If you want to get on in the world, you need to accept that setbacks and failures are inevitable.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
You may feel deflated after the events of the past few days but there are a few surprises in store.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
The planets warn there are people in your social circle who would take advantage of your generosity.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
If you fall behind in your schedule at work, you'll have to do a lot of catching up and making up later.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
There are things going on behind the scenes that you cannot possibly know about, but you can sense that changes are coming.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
You cannot make up your mind which of two paths you should be following. Only one can lead to the inner peace you crave. Take it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
There are a number of loose ends that need to be dealt with right away. Invest the time needed.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
If you let negative thoughts gain a foothold, they will be extremely hard to get rid of again.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
You can see that a different approach is needed on the romantic front. It's not a sign of weakness to show your feelings occasionally.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
You may hear something you are not supposed to hear today. If so, keep the information to yourself.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"What do you think of my makeover?" EVAN CHONG

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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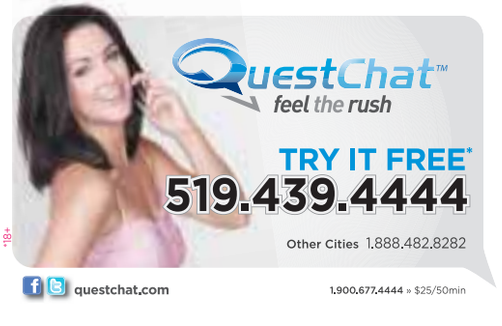

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